

Report for the 2nd Annual General Meeting of Cumbria Branch

President: Michell Skeer QPM Chief Constable of Cumbria Constabulary

Chair of Cumbria branch - David Drinkald

Secretary & No 1 Region Representative - Kate Rowley QPM

Branch committee: Martin Pickering Vice Chair, Adrian Mason Ass Secretary, James Wilson, Jim Irving, Joe Bell, David Tweddle, Tony Scougal, Pete Berry, Gillian Shields QPM, Jim Messenger, Terry O'Connell, Ali Dufty, Linda Maxwell, Kate Sutton, Paul Cox, Ray Gregory and Lance Hindle

Accountant: James Mason ACA

2019 was a busy year yet again not only for our branch but nationally. Below is a resume of the issues we as Narpo representatives have been involved with.

CUMBRIA ISSUES

Collection of subscriptions – 98% of our members now pay monthly to Narpo through their pensions (£1.70 per month). The remainder pay by standing order or by cheque. To date we have 6 members who have not paid their subscriptions for 2020, these members will be receiving a 2nd letter requesting payment in the next week, failure to pay will result in them being removed from our membership. Whilst still on our membership database we are paying the precept to the national office for their membership. Currently our membership is 863 this includes Associate members, widow members, life members and Honorary members. The precept for 2020 is £6287.88 which is split into 2 payments.

Russell Headstone - This year in conjunction with the Constabulary and Police Federation we have been particularly proud to have replaced the headstone of George Russell. The dedication service was extremely well attended by many retired colleagues.

Centenary Celebrations – Nationally the banquet at the Tower of London was held on 13th June, 10 members of our committee attended and reported that the function was a great success. Cumbria reduced the cost of the branch meals to £10 per person to celebrate 100 years. Meals were held at Bardsea, Greenhills and Kendal.

Bank Account change – As requested by the committee the account at the Cumberland Building Society was closed and the money transferred into a Blues and Twos account. 3 members of the Cumbria committee are directors of Blues and Twos.

Coffin Drape – we have drapes in the North and South of the North and South of the County. These are held by Adrian and myself. In our next newsletter I intend to show a picture of the drape and include a short article of who can use the drape and how to contact either myself or Adrian.

Pre-Retirement courses – Ali Dufty attended the last pre-retirement course at HQ and is willing to take on the challenge again, golf permitting!

Agenda/Notes of meetings/Actions/newsletters – are all available on the National Narpo site under the heading of Cumbria.

National Narpo site – there are several information pages on this site. So how do I get there - Narpo Home Page - click Narpo branches - select Cumbria this will then lead you to the Cumbria site where there is information about the branch and national information regarding Insurance, Pensions,

Wellbeing matters, our newsletters and photographs. This is where we publish information about our meetings including the AGM and notes of those meetings can also be found there.

Included in our page is the report that I as one of your representatives present to the No 1 Region Committee. This includes national matters that we are involved with.

Early notice

Branch lunches - Early notice of two meals are **19th July Greenhills £20** and **23rd July Bardsea £12**

NATIONAL MATTERS

Pensions – injury awards continue to be on the radar of the national office. For the past 18 months the NEC have been very active in the area of widow's pensions. Legal advice has been taken and we are about to move onto the next stage which may involve legal proceedings. Whilst we try to keep the country up to speed with this matter you will appreciate that not everything given in the advice we have received is available for publication.

Widows Pensions for life - Suffice to say this is gaining pace, after seeking legal advice we are about to move onto the next stage which involves legal proceedings. At this stage we cannot report much more because of the sensitivity of the information but we remain hopeful that actions taken may prove of benefit to our widow/widower members.

Other Pensionable matters - These are available in the form of circulars and an update is in the Chief's Brief in Narpo News February issue. Attached to this report is the NEC Pensions update for January 2020 which gives more information.

Recruitment Letters – Our pension provider XPS were requested in April 2019 to circulate a letter to all those in receipt of a police pension, for reasons better known to themselves this letter has still not been sent to our pensioners. Our Chief gave her permission for a letter to be sent encouraging pensioners to join our organisation. XPS appear to be ignoring messages from Chief Officers throughout the country and Narpo CEO. Staffordshire from 3 region wanted to make a complaint at the last Pension Board, but it was agreed that if the letters do not go out 1st March 2020 as promised, an official complaint will be made.

Narpo membership is currently over 92,000 members, but it could be a possible 149,000.

Service providers - Travel Insurance - you will have noted that this is set to go up. Over 60 -20%; over 70 – 30%; over 80 – 40%. The provider has stated they cannot sustain the losses, which are probably caused by the fact that we have more older members, with health problems than younger. Not sure what the answer is, but our CEO and Deputy CEO are looking for a new provider for the future.

TRAINING

Mental Health Training - The NEC had Mental Health Training which we found extremely useful, and it was agreed to roll some out to the Regions. Unfortunately, those delivering the training are only legally able to have a Class of 16. The date for our regional training is 23rd June 2020.

CONFERENCE 2020

As you will be aware conference this year is in Plymouth. Kate has visited the site and although a heck of a distance for our region to travel the venue is suitable for our conference. There is a large conference hall and the exhibitors stands will be off the main entrance and easily visible when you enter the site.

The theme of this year's conference is **BE AWARE** and the presentations will be around that theme they include:

Equal Opportunities – does the Equality act 2010 apply to Narpo and the consequences for Narpo if they fail to comply.

Branches have received the legal advice on The Equality Act 2010 and in particular the section that refers to membership of our organisation. Each Narpo branch needs to make sure it is not in breach of the Act. The centre will have its own Equality Policy but if branches breach the Act, they will in effect be acting alone and subject to litigation. Cumbria branch will comply with the advice from the national office.

Cybercrime – keeping the organisation and yourself safe,

Data protection and GDPR. - Always interesting and follows on from our regional presentation.

The presenters for all 4 headings will include Mathew Armsby (Cybercrime) and Bernard Seymour (EO and Data protection)

Fringe meetings - The NEC were asked to consider a fringe meeting regarding Narpo members becoming involved in local politics. This was discussed by the NEC and by a slim majority the CEO was asked to find a location to hold the fringe meeting. Kate voted against the inclusion of this topic as it has little to do with Pensions or Welfare. Since that time a request has been submitted by sponsor of the suggestion Birmingham branch asking for NEC involvement at this fringe and financial support in the region of 3k. The NEC has no policy in relation to fringe meetings and therefore Kate has submitting a policy document to the next NEC meetings in May covering conference procedures. Previously the consensus has been that if the subject is relevant to Narpo then it should be discussed within the conference. There is no agreement for central funds to support a fringe meeting. It is expected that the fringe meeting will be held during the lunch break of conference.

Kate Rowley, Secretary

12.3.20